

Eritrean talks make progress, accord likely

NAIROBI (R) — Talks on ending 28 years of war in Eritrea are making progress and the Ethiopian government could agree with rebels by the end of the week to call a full-scale peace conference.

"Things are moving favourably and I would hope everything is wrapped up by the end of the week, if not earlier," a source close to the talks told Reuters Wednesday.

He spoke as delegations from the Ethiopian government and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) rebels met for a third straight day in Kenya's capital Nairobi to iron out procedural issues blemishing full peace negotiations.

Carrie Harmoo, spokeswoman for former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who is chairing the closed talks, told reporters the parties had met for five-and-a-half hours Tuesday in an atmosphere "constructive and conducive to negotiations."

She declined to give details but added that Carter had held separate meetings with each side to try to speed up the talks, their second since the delegations first met in Atlanta, Georgia, in September.

The negotiators are wrangling over appointing an African co-chairman to assist Carter, international observers and a secretary for the talks.

Hundreds of thousands of people have died in the war in Eritrea, Africa's longest-running conflict which has also forced 800,000 people into exile.

The EPLF wants the province, a former Italian colony along the Red Sea, Ethiopia's main outlet to the outside world, to become an independent state. Ethiopia has given its limited autonomy.

Another northern rebel movement, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), is pressing southwards towards the capital Addis Ababa and claiming a series of military victories.

The TPLF, fighting since 1975 to overthrow President Mengistu Haile Mariam, held separate preliminary peace talks with the government in Rome earlier this month.

Mengistu, who offered unconditional talks to the rebels shortly after he was nearly toppled in May by military commanders demanding an end to the northern wars, Wednesday promoted his chief negotiator with the insurgents.

Cabinet reshuffle

In a cabinet reshuffle, he made Ashagari Yigletu deputy prime minister in charge of social affairs. Ashagari had been head of the Foreign Relations Department of the ruling Workers' Party of Ethiopia.

The reshuffle was the fourth since the coup attempt by military commanders.

4 million need emergency food

Meanwhile a senior United Nations official said Wednesday four million people in drought-ravaged northern Ethiopia would need emergency food aid next year, twice the number previously thought.

"Unless adequate and urgent preparations to meet the emergency are made by the international donor community, the prospect of a repeat of the 1984 situation in which over a million people perished due to famine is very real," David Morton, of the World Food Programme (WFP).

Mengistu also named Yihna Kassaye, a previously unknown figure, to head the government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, which supervises famine relief in the drought-hit north.

The post had been vacant since previous incumbent Colonel Berhane Jembera was transferred back to active military service in August.

Mengistu appointed Tekola Dejen finance minister to replace Wolle Chekol, who was promoted to deputy prime minister with responsibility for economic affairs in an earlier reshuffle on Nov. 7.

Tekola was formerly minister of coffee and tea development and spearheaded a government effort to produce and market coffee, Ethiopia's main export.

The new minister of coffee and tea development is Hambissa Wakoya, former vice-minister for development of state farms.

Mengistu did not name a new prime minister to replace his old comrade-in-arms Filre Selassie Wodereger, who was dismissed on Nov. 7.

Eritrea now has four deputy prime ministers and government

officials say one of them, Hailu Yemenu, has been acting prime minister since Filre Selassie was dropped.

Filre Selassie, a former air force captain and key figure in the 1974 revolution that overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie, was officially relieved of his duties for health reasons.

But diplomats said he was suspected of sympathising with a coup attempt against Mengistu in May and of allegedly trying to smuggle gold out of the country.

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Agricultural engineers federation opens meeting in Amman

Food security a must — premier

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday emphasised Jordan's keenness on pursuing efforts that can help ensure food security for the Arab World and increase food production.

"Arab countries should direct investments to agricultural projects in order to ensure sufficient food supplies and to increase their capabilities in competing with foreign products in domestic and international markets," the prime minister said at a meeting with heads of delegations taking part in a conference of the Arab Agricultural Engineers Federation (AAEF) which opened in Amman Wednesday.

After a briefing on the progress of the meeting, which is focusing attention on coordinating agricultural policies in the Arab region and on marketing issues, the prime minister said that due attention must be given to the

development of natural resources if the Arab World is to attain self-sufficiency.

Sharif Zeid urged the participants of the conference to follow up the implementation of its resolutions and recommendations by all possible means.

The Damascus-based federation was established in 1968 by Jordan and four other Arab countries.

The current 18th biennial meeting was formally opened earlier in the day by Agriculture Minister Bassam Al Saket.

The Arab World currently faces a serious food shortage problem because of its incapability to grow cereals and other crops, mainly wheat, as well as

shortages in meat and dairy products, Saket said in an opening speech.

The Arab World imported food commodities worth \$2.4 billion annually in the 1970s, rising to \$13.4 billion in the 1980s, according to Saket. "This proves that the Arabs are becoming more and more dependent on foreign sources for food supplies, which include bread, sugar, vegetable oil, meat and dairy products. This is a very serious situation endangering the Arab countries' position and posing a threat no less dangerous than a military confrontation with an external power," Saket warned.

The minister underlined the need to achieve integration in food production policies within the Arab World, with focus on the agricultural sector and means of increasing production through the employment of modern tech-

niques.

"Unless the Arab countries adopt a coordinated and integrated policy in food production," the minister said, "there can be no chance for Jordan or any other Arab state to compete in the foreign markets."

"The Arab World," he added, "should joint forces in order to confront the emerging economic blocs elsewhere in the world and should use modern technology to survive."

Saket also urged the Arab countries to offer all possible assistance to the farmers of the occupied Arab territories and to help them market their products and earn a livelihood that would boost "their steadfastness in the face of Israel's repression and continued drive to destroy the Palestinian economy."

The AAEF Chairman Yahya Bakkour in a speech to the

gathering underlined the importance of the agricultural sector, which can ensure sufficient food for the Arabs and help promote social and economic development in the Arab World.

Tareq Tal, president of the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association, outlined the various activities carried out by the association in Jordan and its assistance to the Palestinians through a special fund.

The three-day meeting will review the federation's various programmes and will review a report on the federation's financial situation as well as preparations for the following meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Egypt.

In meeting is attended by delegates from Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan, North and South Yemen.



A scene from the opening ceremony Wednesday of a sports championship for the disabled. Five Arab states are participating in the event (Petra photo).

Sports for handicapped begin

AMMAN (J.T.) — Handicapped sportsmen from Jordan and four other Arab countries are taking part in a pan-Arab championship which was opened in Amman Wednesday by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid.

The handicapped will be competing in target ball for the blind and table tennis for the crippled, according to the Jordan Sports

Federation for the Handicapped (JSFH), which is organising the championship in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECSWA).

Prince Ra'ad delivered a speech at the outset of the games welcoming the participants and outlining the activities of the JSFH and its programmes.

Princess Majeda, Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat and other officials as well as participants in an ESCWA conference in Amman on capabilities and needs of the disabled persons, attended the opening session and watched the opening session and watched part of the games. The participants came from Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria and Iraq in addition to Jordan.

Call issued for effective philosophy on education

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in an Arab training course on the concepts and technicalities of effective educational supervision have called for the adoption of a unified philosophy on educational supervision and its terminology, exchange of supervisory visits, scientific documents and expertise among Arab countries, and holding seminars in various fields of educational supervision.

The participants also called for convening an annual conference

Abdul Salam Majali lauded for his efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Adnan Badran has lauded the efforts Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, His Majesty King Hussein's advisor for educational affairs, in the field of education as well as the educational projects he launched for Jordan.

Addressing a celebration held at Amman Hotel Wednesday in honour of Majali at the conclusion of his membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as representative of Jordan, Badran paid tribute to Majali noting that he "revealed the bright educational, scientific, and cultural image of Jordan and demonstrated his achievements in all of these fields." The director of the UNESCO regional office in Amman, Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kazem, delivered another speech praising the efforts Majali exerted in the field of education and culture. Majali received an appreciation certificate and an honorary medal from UNESCO and a memorial present from the Ministry of Education.

Addressing the opening session, Dr. Ahmad Fathi Sour, Egyptian minister of education, stressed the cultural and intellectual unity within the Arab World. Sour emphasised the role universities can play in promoting

Queen today opens Irbid planting project

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday will open a project of medical plants by planting saplings of thyme in the villages of Hibras and Kaf Soum. The Queen will also inspect a number of lands planted with thyme in these villages. This project is conducted by the woman and development programme of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, in cooperation with the Jordan Women's Association in Irbid Governorate.

This project is designed to encourage women to utilise lands in their neighbourhoods.

ACC states discuss education cooperation

CAIRO (Petra) — President of universities in the four member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) gathered at the city of Tanta Wednesday for a three-day meeting to discuss scopes of cooperation and the promotion of higher education in the four countries.

Addressing the opening session, Dr. Ahmad Fathi Sour, Egyptian minister of education, stressed the cultural and intellectual unity within the Arab World.

Sour emphasised the role universities can play in promoting

culture and higher education. The Tanta meeting, he said, will discuss issues related to student admission, transfer of modern technology to the ACC states, and research work that would benefit the Arab society.

Jordan's four universities are represented at the meeting, which will also study means of promoting the exchange of expertise and attaining full coordination in higher education and scientific research among the ACC states.

Amman ceremony marks centenary of Indian leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanians and members of the Indian community living in Jordan Wednesday organised a celebration marking the conclusion of celebrations on the occasion of the 100th birthday for Jawaharlal Nehru, independent India's first prime minister, and the 40th Independence Day anniversary of the sub-continent.

Leading the celebrations was Ahmad Al Lawzi, speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, who, in a speech, paid tribute to Nehru and Indo-Jordanian relations.

He praised Nehru's leadership of India's independence struggle and subsequent campaign to eliminate sectarianism in the country.

If India is the architect of the concept of non-violence in resisting British colonialism, the infatuation of the youth and children against the colonisation of Israel follows the same sound and humanitarian concept," he said. The resistance of the people of Palestine in occupied Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip to the Israeli occupation is a legitimate human right. The example set by Bedouin inhabitants in refusing to pay taxes to the occupation authorities is in conformity to the right of these people in civil disobedience and the continuation of their struggle to conquer the occupying power and to get their right in self-determination on their national soil."

Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gajendra Singh also addressed the audience and recalled Nehru's contributions not only to India's development but also to the international order through the role he played in setting up the Non-Aligned Movement.

"He saw the civilisation and culture of India connected as a continuous stream from Arab countries and Central Asia right up to South East Asia," the ambassador said.

Dr. Abdullah Khatib, chairman of the General Union of Voluntary Societies and president of the Jordan-India Friendship Society, also paid tribute to Nehru and his achievements in the Indian local scene as well as the Arab and international arenas. He also underlined the late Indian leader's contribution to democracy as a whole in the international scene.

The ceremony was organised by the embassy of India in cooperation with the Jordan-India Friendship Society.



Hikmat Al Khammash

Maritime company to meet in Cairo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Al Khammash left for Cairo Wednesday to attend a meeting of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) general assembly to discuss means of promoting the use of the land-sea route linking Aqaba with Nweibeh and boosting tourism.

One of the topics the delegates from Egypt, Jordan and Iraq, the three states which own the company, will tackle is how to cope with increase in travel along the route.

The AMBC, which was established in 1987, has been transporting goods, passengers and vehicles to Egypt and Jordan by a small fleet of ferry boats, commuting between Aqaba in Jordan and Nweibeh in Sinai in Egypt.

The company's activities and programmes for the coming year will be reviewed by the general assembly.

Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, in cooperation with other institutions, regularly send out to all Inter-Continental hotels across the world information about the situation of tourism in Jordan as part of efforts to promote the country's touristic sites abroad, a press release by the hotel said.

International Traders, a local tour operator company, organised well-rounded programmes for these guests including tours of the Kingdom's renowned historic and archeological sites, to allow them experience the high standard tourism-related services abroad, a press release by the hotel said.

The delegation met a number of key Jordanian officials from both the media and tourism sectors and were briefed on the various development plans to promote the tourism industry and allow it to be marketed worldwide.

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Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, in cooperation with other institutions, regularly send out to all Inter-Continental hotels across the world information about the situation of tourism in Jordan as part of efforts to promote the country's touristic sites abroad, a press release by the hotel said.

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Features

Focus on People

Glass menageries

By Marjan M. Shahin

IN different shades of blue, aqua green and clear glass, vases, mugs, glasses, and glass imitations of animals from the snake to the dolphin are found in shops all over Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Palestine. They are "hand made", ornaments, souvenirs or daily utensils from the "Holy Land". Tourists from the U.S. to Japan have been buying the glassblown vases and cups for years, taking them back home to be put on the shelf with the other "indigenous" art works from countries whose age-old crafts are slowly disappearing. Although the demand for the indigenous Arab crafts has multiplied in the last five years and some crafts are being revived as a result of the demand, glassblowers in particular are very difficult to find. Their profession demands not only a meticulous and artistic nature, it also requires a physical stamina and dedication to the craft that few are apparently willing to give. One such glassblower who has "given" for the last 35 years is Suleiman Suleiman, this week he talks to Focus on People.

Suleiman, an accomplished glassblower at 43, learnt his craft from his father at the age of eight in his home town of Furqus south-east of Homs in Syria. His father was the town's glassblower and traded with major commercial centres such as Homs and Aleppo to the north. Suleiman was the oldest son and his father needed him in the shop, which consisted of an outdoor brick and clay oven, a stool and a small room to store the glass. Suleiman Jr. thus became his father's apprentice at 10 and was making blue and green coloured glass menageries at 13. School was only possible for the nine younger brothers and sisters, "but one thing they never learned how to do at school was make glass menageries" Suleiman says.

Suleiman's choice of career or rather his established career has taken a heavy toll on his health. At 43, his hair is white, his lungs are fragile, he weighs no more than 45 kilogrammes on his 1.5 metre frame and his blue eyes are always red.

"I knew when I looked at my father that I would age young, but there was nothing I could do, glassblowing was the only trade I knew," says Suleiman when asked why he chose to stay in a trade that would be so taxing on his health. "When I was old enough and independent enough to do things on my own, I married my maternal cousin, and we had children right away, so there was no time to think about shifting careers."

When the economic situation in Syria became tough on the artisan community in particular, Suleiman, his wife and four children left Syria for Beirut and Baalbek in Lebanon in the early 1970s. There he found that artisans could still make a subsistence living. Local tastes differed from other Arab communities who still spent bundles on European crystal glass, and Arab and foreign tourists alike provided a good clientele for anything that just "looked" Levantine, Suleiman recalls.

After seven relatively prosperous years in Lebanon, Suleiman decided that the no war no peace situation had no ending in sight so he moved to Egypt. "We were sad to leave Beirut, but we wanted to stay alive. My fellow Lebanese artisans were much braver, I still get news from them once in a while. Most of them are still alive," Suleiman says as if relieved that he did not leave them behind to perish.

Suleiman's wife Rabya (she was the fourth of five daughters), did not like Cairo after Beirut, and the economic conditions were such that she had to work to help sustain the family. Rabya, Suleiman points out, knows how to read and write and found a job in a beauty salon in downtown Cairo. Suleiman's luck in Cairo was not as good as Rabya's and he worked in no less than ten glass producing "factories" in the ten years he lived in the Egyptian capital.

"In Egypt it is hard to make a living because there are many artisans. There is a large souq and lots and lots of tourists, but the wages are low and with all the haggling one hardly makes a profit," Suleiman says.

After marrying off his three daughters in Egypt, Suleiman, Rabya and their son Riad came to Jordan in 1987. Rabya doesn't work anymore but Riad finished high school and while keeping a clerical job in the morning, helps his father in the afternoon. Suleiman is now employed at one of Amman's most commercially busy artisan centres. The owners have provided him with an oven and lots of glass. On Fridays and in the afternoons children come to watch him create glass menageries with fascinated eyes, "make us some more" they keep on saying until it's time for them to go.

Taste in the Arab World have developed in the past decade to include local artisan crafts which had been pushed aside for most of the century as "old fashioned and unrefined."

The craft of glassmaking and blowing which existed before the birth of Christ, is being developed, says Suleiman. "Now they are painting the glass with gold and silver designs and are making glazed patterns of different kinds. Some are even decorating the glasses with calligraphy, it's quite nice."

While some glassblowers are experimenting with green and yellow stripes or mauve and pink designs, Suleiman prefers the straight forward classical blue and green glasses that his father taught him how to make. "What I know how to do I make the best," he asserted with a smile that showed his missing teeth.



A new semi-floating rice variety at Bara nursery

The lifeline of rice

By Ruth Massey

TIMBUKTU, Mali — Sixteen men in turbans and long loose tunics sit in a semi-circle in the living room of a house in this legendary town. The men are Songhai farmers, the chairmen and treasurers of eight village associations engaged in a common endeavour — to grow rice in the desert. They have come from their farms to meet with two representatives of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the organisation that launched them on a project that has rescued them from poverty.

Five years ago, they were destitute, victims of a terrible drought. Now, with several good rice-growing years behind them, they can plan for the future.

This ancient oasis town, with its rich and romantic past, was once the golden city of West Africa, a place of learning and commerce. But Timbuktu's magic was sadly missing five years ago when wells dried up and sandstorms howled through the streets. The Niger river, which flows through the region, fell to its lowest level in living memory.

When the rains failed, Songhai farmers could no longer cultivate *glabermina*, or floating rice, as they had for hundreds of years beside the Niger river as it travelled from Timbuktu to Gao, 600 kilometres to the east. For centuries, they had counted on the Niger to overflow its banks and flood the lowlands where they sowed their seeds. When the drought interrupted this cycle the results were catastrophic. Many Songhai were forced to seek work in towns and cities that had no jobs to offer them. The lives of a million people were at risk.

The turning point for 13,000 inhabitants in villages of the Timbuktu and Gao regions came in 1984, when UNCDF launched a plan to grow irrigated rice in the desert using water pumped from the Niger. Pipes were run several hundred metres from the riverbank to the empty, sandy terrain. Seeds and pesticides, as well as

fuel, lubricants and spare parts for the pumps, were made available through a revolving fund to be reimbursed by farmers from dues paid to their village associations.

Three U.N. Volunteers financed by the United Nations Development Programme worked side-by-side with the farmers from the beginning. One of them, Wim Schreurs, an agronomist from the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands, developed a new hybrid of rice. Schreurs crossed *glabermina*, which is sown in the wind, with irrigated Asian rice, which is planted by hand, seedling by seedling.

Whereas *glabermina* delivers a low yield — 900 kilos per hectare — the new variety produces over twice that amount.

Encouraged by their neighbours' success, 15 more villages with 12,000 inhabitants formed similar associations, pooled their land and began growing irrigated rice. By liberating farmers from their dependence on rain, the pumps have made it possible to grow two crops a year instead of one. By the end of 1988, UNCDF's US\$6.6 million investment had enabled farmers to clear and irrigate 817 hectares of land producing 4,000 tonnes of paddy rice a year.

The village associations' contract with UNCDF also calls for trees to be planted as windbreaks to shield crops against the sand-laden winds that sweep across the plain. But, like most Songhai, Songhai farmers have traditionally looked to trees for firewood rather than crop protection. They were reluctant to use precious water for anything other than growing crops. When local authorities failed to deliver the five kilos of maize they had promised as an incentive for each tree planted, the farmers stopped watering the trees and they died.

The windbreak problem is on top of the agenda as the Songhai community leaders begin their meeting with UNCDF representatives in Timbuktu. "You are

citizens of Mali just as I am," says Maimouna Sy, who helps coordinate the UNCDF project. She says she understands the farmer's resistance to windbreaks, but stresses that they are essential for crop protection. "If the governor promised you maize and did not deliver," she says, "you have the right to take that up with him. But you were given trees to plant as windbreaks as part of your contract with UNCDF."

"Windbreaks are essential for healthy crops just as good book-keeping is essential for healthy finances," adds Dominique Ait Ouyahia, a UNCDF representative who has come from New York to review the project. She has touched on a sensitive issue — the associations' accounting practices.

Songhai tradition calls for complete discretion in assisting people in need. If someone requires funds to feed his family he will ask for a loan in the dead of night. At the same time, a Songhai's word is his bond, and he will always repay his debt. "The amounts that are not in the bank are in our heads," says the treasurer of the village of Iloa. "We know where the money is, and most of it has already been paid back."

However honourable, committing figures to memory can lead to confusion when hundreds of farmers and scores of villagers are involved. Moreover, it is UNCDF policy that standard accounting procedures be followed wherever revolving funds are set up.

Most treasurers are now learning to keep accounts with the help of instructors from the government's Direction Régionale de l'Action Coopérative, known as DRACOOP. "There wasn't much point in knowing how to read and write in the past," says Mamadou Sountoura, DRACOOP's regional director in Gao. "The farmers stopped planting the trees and they died.

The windbreak problem is on top of the agenda as the Songhai community leaders begin their meeting with UNCDF representatives in Timbuktu. "You are

and calculating how much fertiliser and insecticide is necessary to boost crop yields.

Bara, a farm community 30 kilometres north of Gao, has gone far indeed. Growing two crops a year on 100 hectares, villagers pay their taxes, feed and clothe their families and reimburse the communal revolving fund which pays for seeds, fuel, and pesticides essential for next season's planting. This year they intend to use some of their profits to build a village dispensary.

"The people in Bara understand perfectly well that they need as many literate members as possible, including women," says Sountoura. — UNDP.

Zambia and the IMF make friends again

By John Mukela

The Zambian government has drawn up a new economic programme to which the IMF has given a nod of approval. But before any new loans are made, Zambia must resume payments on its outstanding debt.

LUSAKA, Zambia — Zambia, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank appear to be approaching a reconciliation. Two and a half years ago, a disagreement over economic reform policies led to an end of IMF balance-of-payments support for Zambia. The country also suffered a loss of aid for development programmes.

Now, however, the government has drawn up a policy framework paper (PFP) which has received a nod of approval from the IMF and the World Bank, establishing the basis for renewed co-operation.

According to Finance Minister Gibson Chilanga, after talks in Washington with the IMF and the World Bank, the two institutions reviewed the PFP and found it acceptable.

The programme tackles issues such as realistic exchange rates, liberalised import regulations, reductions in money supply and budget deficits, the decontrol of consumer prices and a lifting of subsidies. To get away from the country's reliance on copper exports, the government plans to increase growth in non-metal sectors from this year's 1.9 per cent to 5.5 per cent in 1993, and to reduce inflation from this year's 95 per cent to 15 per cent in 1993.

President Kenneth Kaunda's main preoccupation at present is to woo more loans from donors and to bail out an economy close to collapse. His latest strategy has included far-reaching measures, chief among which are a 47 per cent kwacha devaluation, an issue of new currency and moves towards ending government subsidies on almost all commodities. The last time the government tried to reduce subsidies on maize meal — the staple food — there were riots.

Showing renewed confidence, the government recognises, however, that it will have to retain some protective measures for the most vulnerable groups of people. At present it intends to retain coupons for maize meal for the benefit of the lowest income groups; provisionally retain the fertiliser subsidy for small-scale farmers; and provide financial incentives to encourage the resettlement of urban dwellers to rural areas. — PANOS.

Western donor governments have begun dangling aid carrots, promising more assistance if Zambia demonstrates the will to press ahead with its reforms.

As part of the PFP, a programme of investment in the public sector is also under way. Projects have been carefully selected with an emphasis on completing those already ongoing, or particularly in need of rehabilitation. Plant, machinery, roads and general infrastructure are given top priority. New projects will no doubt be undertaken but must have a high economic rate of return.

Some of the changes are already yielding results. The currency change has brought excess money down to manageable proportions and traders now bank most of their money for fear of further government action. In the last change, many were caught unaware, and those who had hoarded money in their houses found themselves having to pay a 50 per cent withholding tax to the government.

Discrepancies, however, still remain. For instance, while a quarter of the government's total budget is swallowed up by military expenditure, spending on health services and education has dropped alarmingly. Twenty-five years after independence, the government has turned away from electoral promises based on Kaunda's humanist society.

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High-tech tailors insulate the U.S. space shuttle

By Beth Dickey

NEEDLES, thread, sewing machines and other sewing tools are becoming a common sight at some U.S. space shuttle factories.

The tailors, better known as thermal protection system mechanics at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, are making heat-resistant flexible insulation blankets for U.S. space shuttles.

The mechanics make the blankets from fibreglass cloth or metal-coated mylar. They work from multi-page patterns, often stitching by hand to make coverings of all shapes and sizes that fit precisely into pre-measured spaces on the fuselage or in the payload bay of each shuttle.

The thermal protection system keeps temperatures as cold as minus 157 degrees C in space or as hot as 1,650 degrees as it returns to Earth. Nearly three-fourths of each shuttle has a heat-resistant covering of tiles and blankets to shield astronauts and cargo against the searing temperatures.

Few of the mechanics have professional garment-making experience, but many enjoy sewing as a hobby. However, while a missed stitch in a hand-made shirt may be no big deal, a crooked seam on the space shuttle could be disastrous. That is why blankets must be sewn precisely.

Sewing for the space shuttle is not easy, says technician David Sheets. "Learning to read the blueprints for the patterns is as difficult as sewing the blankets," he says.

Technician Marie Smith prepares a rectangular quilt 10 centimetres wide and 46 centimetres long that will fit on the midbody

of space shuttle Columbia. Smith has been sewing for the space shuttle for nearly 10 years and she can make one or two of these blankets a day. There are about 2,300 blankets on each shuttle, and no two are exactly alike.

"Every stitch on each blanket is checked and rechecked for quality," says Connie Weatherby, who runs out a machine stitch made on a silvery pad that will fit inside Columbia's payload bay. She is redoing her work because she isn't satisfied.

For Weatherby and many of her co-workers, knowing their hands have touched the shuttle is half the fun of getting paid.

"The job's got a lot of short-term and long-term benefits," says another technician, Howard Baker. "You get to jump up and down every time there's a launch. You're able to do something for your country and have a good job, too, and that's hard to beat."

— The Christian Science Monitor.

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Kashmir Restaurant

Gulf capital markets face uncertain future

By Eric Hall
Reuters

DUBAI — Gulf Arab capital markets face an uncertain future as regional state deficits, which encouraged their creation, disappear under a new influx of oil revenues.

The issue of public debt in the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states began only three years ago when the mid-1980s oil price collapse wiped out surpluses and threatened reserves.

But in a region where up to 90 per cent of revenues can come from oil, higher oil prices are reversing the equation.

Independent economists believe oil revenues in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar could be up to 30 per cent higher this year, large-

ly due to firmer prices and higher output to match world demand.

"Deficits pushed governments into creating the markets. What happens if the deficits disappear?" asked one Gulf economist.

One group of Gulf policy-makers and economists want much broader local markets to use private sector capital more efficiently for economic growth, rather than invested overseas.

But the traditional social and religious values of the region do not fit easily with free capital markets.

Traditionally, political and economic patronage was held firmly in the hands of Gulf Arab rulers. The hundreds of billions of oil dollars merely helped centralise control further, economist said.

"In these economies, the

capital that has become available has been in government's hands and has been channelled down to the private sector," said an official at one Gulf central bank.

Islam's ban on usury has restricted capital market growth by focusing religious disapproval on the use of interest rates, the economists said.

Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman have developed government debt markets. Qatar is studying the issue of public debt. The UAE has a weekly certificates of deposit market.

Saudi Arabia, the biggest GCC economy, during the 1970s oil boom created an industrial sector almost totally with government funds.

When the state fell into deficit in the mid-1980s, funding this quasi-government industry became largely only as part of

Even Saudi Arabia's reserves were not limitless and, after drawing down tens of billions of dollars to finance the economy, in June, 1988 it began offering two to five year development bonds.

The bonds were issued in large denominations.

At first they were offered only to Saudi banks and institutions, and sold at a discount, linked to U.S. treasuries at 20 to 50 points over like-dated U.S. paper, Saudi-based economists said.

The result was that the bonds are attractive only when U.S. treasuries are attractive, and the great bulk ended up on the books of government institutions and local banks.

In an attempt to create a secondary market, banks were later allowed to sell them on to local investors, but this has been largely only as part of

investment trust portfolios.

Opinion about the future of the market is divided. Some Western economists think a return to big state surpluses will at best lead to a suspension of activity in the bonds market.

But Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency Governor Sheikh Hamad Al Sayyari was quoted this week as saying that efforts to improve the efficiency of the market were continuing.

Others also believe that the government has seen the error of relying too much on state-led growth. "There might be another oil price crash," said a Gulf bank economist.

"The basic commitment to shift responsibility for economic growth to the private sector is there, although I am taking a long-term view of this," said a Saudi-based diplomat.

U.S. allocates nearly \$15b for foreign aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush signed into law a \$14.6-billion foreign aid bill Tuesday night that includes the first cash in a promised three-year aid programme for Poland and Hungary.

The measure includes \$333 million in new aid for Poland and Hungary — aid which has become politically popular because of the wave of economic and political reform sweeping Eastern Europe.

About \$233 million would be in cash, including support for new private enterprise and to stabilise Poland's currency. The rest would come in trade and investment insurance.

It also includes \$85 million in unfettered military aid for El Salvador, where a week-long state of intense warfare has prompted congressional calls for a re-examination of U.S. policy.

As usual, more than one-third of U.S. aid goes to the two parties to the Camp David accord, Israel and Egypt. Israel is due to receive \$1.8 billion in military aid and \$1.2 billion in economic aid, while Egypt will get \$1.3 billion in military aid and \$315 million in economic assistance.

Other aid in the bill is earmarked for the Philippines, which would get \$160 million as the U.S. share of a new international assistance programme; Turkey, with \$500 million, in military aid; Greece, with \$350 million in military aid; \$230 million in economic aid for Pakistan; \$44 million in economic aid to be shared among the four Central American democracies as the Bush administration sees fit; and \$28 million for an economic development fund for Northern Ireland.

The Bush administration agreed to accept one item it had argued vociferously against, a section written by Representative David Obey that would bar the administration from using aid money to buy support from other countries for policies the United States could not legally carry out itself.

Agreement came after Obey rose on the house floor and announced the section was not intended to tie the hands of administration officials carrying out their normal diplomatic duties, but was only to bar explicit "quid pro quo" deals with other countries to carry out prohibited activities.

A similar provision in the bill authorising State Department activities prompted a veto by Bush Tuesday night.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday November 22, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	103.6 104.6
640.0	646.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	444.8 449.2
1002.4	1012.4	Dutch guilder	312.6 315.7
352.7	356.2	Swedish krona	99.7 100.7
396.5	400.5	Italian lira (for 100)	47.9 48.4
		Belgian franc (for 10)	167.4 169.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
1.1695/705	1.8035/45	Deutschmarks
2.0343/53	1.6045/55	Dutch guilder
37.86/89	37.60/50	Swiss francs
6.1500/50	6.1500/50	Belgian francs
1330/1331	143.70/80	French francs
6.3980/4030	6.8525/75	Italian lire
7.0140/90	7.0140/90	Japanese yen
One ounce of gold	408.25/75	Swedish krona
		Norwegian krona
		Danish krona
		U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A surge in the price of gold sparked a rush of buying in Australian gold and resource stocks and helped push the share market to a firm close. The All Ordinaries Index rose 8.5 to 1,637.7.

TOKYO — Share prices surged to a record high close, buoyed by new investment trust funds and buying by other institutional investors. The Nikkei soared 227.05 to 36,286.92.

HONG KONG — Stocks were lower with no interesting corporate news to puncture the cloak of indifference smothering trading interest. The Hang Seng Index slipped 5.17 to 2,812.02.

SINGAPORE — The stock market closed on a firm note after share prices rose sharply across the board. The Straits Times Industrial Index jumped 12.25 points to 1,361.67.

BOMBAY — Shares finished mixed on heavy institutional buying after the market opened shakily as India's general elections began.

FRANKFURT — Closed for holiday

ZURICH — Shares closed slightly higher on selective demand. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index rose 3.7 points to 1,107.0.

PARIS — French share prices were steady but off highs in quiet trading by midday. The CAC-40 index was up 2.42 points to 1,827.63 at 1230 GMT.

LONDON — Shares were mostly firmer in late trading with investors noticeably absent as caution stifled business. By 1535 GMT the FTSE-100 index was 5.7 points up at 2,190.8.

NEW YORK — Wall Street Blue chips kept their early gains, advancing slightly in light trading ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. The Dow rose 9.60 to 2,649.

China's internal debt tops \$21b

BEIJING (AP) — China has a domestic debt of 80 billion yuan (\$21.6 billion) and will begin incurring new debts to repay old ones with the approach of a peak repayment period next year, a senior economist has said.

Zhang Jialin, deputy director of the state debt management department under the finance ministry, told the official Xinhua news agency the government must repay 30 billion yuan (\$8.1 billion) in debts next year.

Zhang stressed that all debts will be paid off in time. However, the government also faces maturation next year of about \$7 billion of an estimated \$44 billion in foreign loans and has been hit by shortfalls in tax revenues as the economy slides toward recession.

Zhang said domestic bonds, revived in China in 1981, include 51 billion yuan (\$13.8 billion) in state treasury bonds, 5.4 billion yuan (\$1.46 billion) in construction bonds and 12 billion yuan (\$3.2 billion) in "value-preserving" bonds.

He said the domestic debt does not include bonds locally issued by Chinese banks and enterprises.

State workers are now required to buy two types of bonds: State bonds, which amount to about four per cent of annual wages, and public debt bonds, about eight per cent of yearly income.

The state issued 12 billion yuan (\$3.2 billion) in public debt bonds in June, and gave workers until the end of the year to buy them. The bonds mature in three years.

Zhang said in 1981 bonds were of 10-year duration and provided interest of only four per cent, but that now they mature in two or three years. The interest rate has jumped from 14 per cent at the beginning of this year to about 20 per cent now.

China's inflation rate is also about 20 per cent.

The government says its budget deficit for the past few years has been around eight billion yuan.

Thus anyone who has con-

verted U.S. dollars to foreign exchange certificates (FECS) would be encouraged to spend at least half in China.

But customers may withdraw from their FECS accounts in the form of checks, which can be cashed into foreign currencies overseas, the official said.

Customers must also present an airplane ticket proving that they need the money because they are going overseas, the official said. They may make deposits to Bank of China FECS accounts that already exist.

The new regulations, put into effect about a month ago, were not announced publicly, the official said.

China has a dual currency system, with the yuan divided into renminbi, for domestic use, and FECS for foreigners and Chinese who exchange foreign currency.

The Bank of China official would not say why the restrictions were imposed but called them "a reasonable measure."

Zhang, however, said China will adopt a method of incurring new debts to repay old ones and establish a domestic debt repayment foundation in the next few years.

Meanwhile, China's central bank has quietly tightened regulations on foreign exchange, limiting purchases of foreign currency and restricting its sale to those with airline tickets out of the country.

The new regulations stem the outflow of foreign capital and suggest the government could be considering a devaluation of the Chinese currency, but economists in Beijing said they doubt that would happen soon.

Under the restrictions, which apply to foreign visitors as well as Chinese, holders of foreign currency certificates can only repurchase 50 per cent of the amount of foreign currency they originally sold, according to a Bank of China official who would not give his name.

Thus anyone who has con-

verted U.S. dollars to foreign exchange certificates (FECS) would be encouraged to spend at least half in China.

But customers may withdraw from their FECS accounts in the form of checks, which can be cashed into foreign currencies overseas, the official said.

Customers must also present an airplane ticket proving that they need the money because they are going overseas, the official said. They may make deposits to Bank of China FECS accounts that already exist.

The new regulations, put into effect about a month ago, were not announced publicly, the official said.

China has a dual currency system, with the yuan divided into renminbi, for domestic use, and FECS for foreigners and Chinese who exchange foreign currency.

The Bank of China official would not say why the restrictions were imposed but called them "a reasonable measure."

Zhang, however, said China will adopt a method of incurring new debts to repay old ones and establish a domestic debt repayment foundation in the next few years.

Meanwhile, China's central bank has quietly tightened regulations on foreign exchange, limiting purchases of foreign currency and restricting its sale to those with airline tickets out of the country.

The new regulations stem the outflow of foreign capital and suggest the government could be considering a devaluation of the Chinese currency, but economists in Beijing said they doubt that would happen soon.

Under the restrictions, which apply to foreign visitors as well as Chinese, holders of foreign currency certificates can only repurchase 50 per cent of the amount of foreign currency they originally sold, according to a Bank of China official who would not give his name.

Thus anyone who has con-

CBJ sets minimum rate of interest for I/c deposits

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Wednesday issued a memorandum allowing banks and financial companies in Jordan to pay a minimum interest of five per cent annually on all funds deposited with them by customers for letters of credit (L/Cs), clear drafts and guaranteed time drafts.

A CBJ statement said the measure was deemed necessary to enable Jordanian importers to make appropriate returns on amounts of guarantees in cash when they commence procedures for imports. But, it said, this should take place with a cash guarantee margin as defined earlier by the CBJ.

The CBJ earlier defined the cash guarantee rates as follows:

a. 30 per cent on imports of all food supplies and medicines which cannot be produced locally, primary materials used in the local industry like packaging and packing, and spare parts for industrial machines and equipment used for agricultural production so as to support the industrial and agricultural sectors.

b. 70 per cent on the rest of imported commodities.

c. 80 per cent on all commodities imported through the free zone, provided that this will be enacted in foreign currency from the agent who must draw from any one of the following sources: his own foreign account, foreign cash or incoming transfers in foreign currency.

ACC states to have holding company

AMMAN (I.T.) — A four-member technical committee set up by the countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) to study the question of establishing a holding company for Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan holds its final session in Amman Thursday to endorse a draft agreement defining all statutes related to the proposed company.

An announcement here Wednesday said the committee discussed all aspects related to the company's future work and the proposals on areas of investment.

Number of firms rise at Sahab Industrial City

AMMAN (I.T.) — A total of 29 industrial businesses were established in the Sahab Industrial City near Amman during the first 10 months of 1989, raising the total number of businesses in the facility to 164, according to Dr. Fayez Suhaimat, director general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC).

Sports

Tubbs wins American title

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — Tony Tubbs won the North American Boxing Federation heavyweight title with a 12-round decision Tuesday night over Orin Norris, breaking the defending champion's 19-bout winning streak.

The fight was even on the judges' scorecards through eight rounds, but in the final four rounds, Tubbs began punishing Norris with quick combinations. Norris was able to pick off many punches with his glove but Tubbs was too quick.

Judge Robert Byrd scored the bout 116-112 for Tubbs, while Gen Hamada gave Tubbs a 116-

113 edge. Chuck Giampa called it even, 114-114.

The 233-pound Tubbs, fighting in his hometown, was rated No. 15 by the World Boxing Council and improved to 28-2 with 16 wins by knockout. Norris, at 205½ pounds, was defending his title for the sixth time and fell to 22-2 with nine knock-outs.

There were no knockdowns in the bout and neither fighter was injured.

In the semi-main event, Terry Morris, younger brother of Orin, won a 12-round unanimous decision over Tony Montgomery of Long Beach, Calif., retaining his NABF superwelterweight title in his second defence.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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RATE YOUR OWN GAME

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A ♠ Q 10

♦ 6 4 3

♦ 8 5 2

♦ A 9 4

WEST

♦ 7 6 3 2

♦ 9 5

♦ 10

♦ Q J 8

♦ A 10 6

♦ Q J 7

♦ Q J 10 7 3 ♠ K 8 6 5 2

SOUTH

♦ J 5 4

♦ A K 9 7 5 2

♦ K 9 4 3

♦ Void

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Here's a hand that will give you the opportunity of judging how good a player you really are. Cover the East-West cards and imagine you are declaring a four-heart contract at rubber bridge. The opening lead is the queen of clubs.

Although your hand has good playing strength, you do not have enough to make over partner's raise to four hearts. Even if partner brings you a magic hand—the A K of spades and ace of diamonds—try to have a loser in each red suit. Also, your hand is far too

strong for an opening weak two-bid.

After a club opening lead, you can count 10 tricks even if you have to lose one in trumps—five hearts, four spades and the ace of clubs. The danger is you could lose four—three diamonds and a trump—before you collect your due. East is the danger hand; you cannot afford a lead through your king of diamonds.

If you have worked all this out, the play becomes easy. Win the ace of clubs, discarding a diamond from hand, lead a trump, and simply cover any card East produces. West wins a cheap trick, but he can do you no harm. Win any return, draw the two outstanding trumps and cash your tricks.

Note that it does not help East to split his honors on the first trump lead; that would give you an over-trick. You win, cross to dummy with a spade and lead another trump, again covering any card East plays.

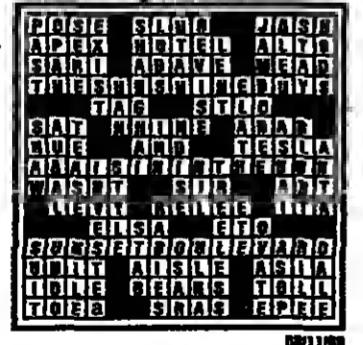
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THE Daily Crossword

by Frank Geary



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



03/11/89

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1989
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Early in the morning you are apt to be able to see whatever issues you have into practical execution but the remainder of the day and evening find most persons overly sensitive.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Discussion of your financial affairs should be talked out with those in position of authority. Assisting them with their duties makes conditions lighter.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Welcome the practical advice from a stranger who has had considerable experience regarding family matters.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't make hard demands on the time of your attachment at this time. Discuss money affairs with members of your household.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take time out to show special appreciation for your mate. This is a good day for visiting as many friends and relatives as possible.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Many tasks but also many pleasures will occupy your time at home today. Dashing about with your attachment will please both of you now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Invite persons in to your home who do not have other places to go. Give something very practical to your attachment today.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a day when you need to

be very clever and resourceful in your financial dealings. Do whatever pleases your loved one in an unselfish manner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Much activity of a financial or business nature will start to take place and you will benefit by long conversations with members of your family.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do for your family now only the things that you know that they really like. See only those friends with your attachment who are not contentious.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consult with as many experts as possible about further business success. Concentrate on what pleases your loved one today.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take your family to some new pleasures in the outside world of adventure. Quiet happiness with your loved one can now be in effect.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You find that well organized friends can be very helpful to you now, so, consult them. Your home will be more cheerful by inviting in some friends.

TODAY'S CHILD: If your child were born today he or she will be one of those dynamic doers who can view essential things from its greatest scope, and while this may not be visible early in life, later, amazing results can occur from this talent that will make all connected with them proud.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Emotionalism and disturbed feelings are apt to be the order of the day but you can be prepared by knowing the aspects and avoid confrontations with others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You now need the assistance of a practical minded businessman with your finances. Get some fresh ideas to put in effect for your home and your family.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Some changes in friendships are brewing, but be patient and they will naturally occur. A trip at this time with your attachment is desirable.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Taking friends out on the town and entertaining them requires more economy on your part. Avoid a tendency to be quite moody with your loved one.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A brilliant businessman will give you good, practical advice. Too much to do at home can bring on arguments, so use poise and avoid tensions.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Going to many places of entertainment today will be productive of good results. Get your attachment to go as many places as possible.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do those things which will show your loved one you are a stable person. Invite those people you have recently met, to meet your family.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Let your family be more aware

you want them to be your good friends, too. A bigwig who is very important will come into your home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Some private activities at your home can now work itself harmoniously. Do your vocational responsibilities because you want to have a good time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Some private activities at your home can now work itself harmoniously. Do your vocational responsibilities because you want to have a good time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Stay at home as much as you can and thus avoid outside tensions. You need to forget your own desires in doing for your loved one.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An understanding acquaintance will give you good, practical advice. Quiet is best for romantic happiness for you and mate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Invite only friends that you can depend upon in your home today. A little more directness towards your attachment would be wise.

TODAY'S CHILD: If your child were born today he or she will be one of those aware and hip individuals who will fit right into the current sweep of things and know just what is the right thing to say at exactly the right moment without seeming to be insincere.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do those things which will show your loved one you are a stable person. Invite those people you have recently met, to meet your family.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Let your family be more aware

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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Olympic hero's medals auctioned

LONDON (AP) — Harold Abrahams put values above victory, morals above medals and made millions of people cry with joy and sadness in his story of an Olympic hero's triumph over religious intolerance.

But in 90 seconds, the prizes from Abrahams' athletic career were snapped up in an auction Tuesday.

Medals, cups and documents belonging to the runner immortalized in the Oscar-winning film "Chariots of Fire" were sold to one of the world's leading businessmen.

Mohamed Al Fayed, the Egyptian-born owner of a London-based empire that includes Harrod's department store and the Ritz Hotel in Paris, paid \$25,300 (\$39,720) for some 30 momentos that Abrahams treasured for a lifetime but which, his family said, could no longer gather dust in a desk drawer.

Al Fayed said he bought the collection out of genuine respect for one of sport's great legends.

"I was inspired by a man who put principle before winning," Al Fayed said. "I was inspired by a man who was the victim of severe prejudice and yet by the strength of his own morality triumphed and won a gold medal for his country."

He died in 1978 at age 77, but his struggle against religious pre-

judice to win Olympic gold was portrayed by Ben Cross in the 1981 movie.

Al Fayed was one of the main financial backers of the film, providing \$4 million. His son, Dodi Fayed, was the executive producer.

Al Fayed said he bought the items to keep them in Britain and that they would be placed on display at Harrods' sports section, known as "Olympic way."

"Mr. Al Fayed considered it his patriotic duty to buy the items," Harrods spokesman Michael Cole said. "He has lived here for almost 30 years, his children are British and he feels great loyalty and devotion to this country. He values the story of Harold Abrahams as well as Eric Liddell."

Liddell, a devout Christian also featured in "Chariots of Fire," withdrew from the 100-metre Olympic heats in Paris rather than run on a Sunday. He switched to the 400 and won that event.

Among the items purchased by Al Fayed were Abrahams' Commander of the British Empire award bestowed by Queen Elizabeth II in 1957, and a memo for a dinner held in honour of Britain's Olympians at the house of commons in 1924, covered with signatures of athletes including Abrahams and Liddell.

Abrahams was a prominent

sports journalist and chairman and treasurer of Britain's Amateur Athletics Association, which had hoped to buy the collection to start a hall of fame.

But the organisation had to drop out when the bidding, which started at £5,200 (\$8,320), exceeded £12,000 (\$19,200).

Pottle said her adopted brother, Alan, came up with the idea to sell.

"I was against the sale initially," she said. "But then I realised it could all be stolen if we just left it. It seemed a pity to just leave them there."

"I would have liked the collection to have gone into British athletics to keep it in the sport. But we wanted it to go to someone who would treasure it."

She said she was "amazed" that the collection of her father's possessions fetched almost three times the estimated lot price. "I never imagined they would reach such a amount," she said.

"Obviously, 'Chariots of Fire' had a lot to do with it."

She said the proceeds from the sale would be shared with her brother.

Only one of Abrahams' prizes is being kept in the family, a small cup he won when he was 10.

"That one's very sentimental for me," his daughter said.

By Sergio Leitao Reuter

ITAP

World News

American commandos hold off rebels in San Salvador hotel

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Crack American commandos, who held out against a leftist guerrilla assault on the homes of El Salvador's wealthy, were holed up in a luxury San Salvador hotel Wednesday.

"They cannot get out (now) because we don't know if some guerrilla forces remain in the hotel. We will try to take them out tomorrow (Wednesday)," Salvadorean Army Colonel Carlos Armando Aviles told a U.S. Television network Tuesday night.

Pentagon sources quoted by U.S. television said 12 U.S. Army Green Beret commandos were holed up on two floors of the Sheraton Hotel.

El Salvador's ambassador to the United States said there were eight servicemen and rebel Radio Venceremos, in a broadcast monitored in Managua, Nicaragua, said six armed Americans had refused to leave the hotel.

The United States has 55 military advisers in the country and provides more than \$1 million in aid per day to the right-wing government of President Alfredo Cristiani.

The Farabundo Marti Libera-

tion Front guerrillas said early Wednesday in Mexico City that the Americans in the hotel were a threat to diplomatic efforts to end fighting in the capital.

The refusal to leave "is a dangerous decision, because this is a zone of combat at this moment. It puts at risk the diplomatic efforts made to guarantee their security," they said in a communiqué.

President George Bush left open the possibility of using military force to free Americans trapped or held captive in the hotel.

"But we cannot speculate on steps the U.S. or the Salvadorean government may be undertaking or considering at this time," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

More than 87 people including the secretary general of the Organisation of American States, Javier Baena Soares, were trapped when the guerrillas stormed the hotel in the well-to-do Escalón neighbourhood before dawn Tuesday.

The guerrillas held parts of the hotel for most of the day in what the government said was a bid to kidnap Baena Soares, who was in the country on a peace mission.

But Baena Soares, who left the country early Tuesday evening, told Reuters he did not believe this.

A group of 70 people was released from the hotel early Tuesday afternoon then another 17 people were evacuated after nightfall when the government said it was in full control of the hotel.

The attack on Escalón, where many of the government's supporters live, was the boldest yet in a rebel drive to overthrow the government that has killed at least 1,300 people in fighting mainly confined to working-class suburbs and outlying cities.

Rebel spokesman Salvador Sanabria said it was designed to bring the war to an area where the government would be reluctant to attack as savagely as it had in working class areas last week.

At least 70,000 people have died in the 10-year-long civil war, most of them civilians.

The Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday that members of the army's elite Delta Force commando team were dispatched to El Salvador Tuesday.

The unit was sent to advise the Salvadorean military on possible tactics in seizing the hotel rather than participating in any actual assault, the Times quoted an administration source as saying.

An administration official who asked not to be identified declined to confirm or deny the report, saying: "We're just not going to discuss what steps we or the Salvadorean government are taking."

Meanwhile, Salvadorean guerrillas said they shot down an army helicopter Tuesday near the Sheraton Hotel.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) said it launched attacks early Tuesday in the Escalón and San Benito areas of the capital.

"We brought down a Hughes 500 helicopter at 8:20 a.m. in the sector of the Hotel Sheraton," it said in a statement on rebel Radio Farabundo Marti monitored in Managua.

It said guerrillas were fighting troops, paratroopers and police near the hotel and army aircraft and helicopters were bombing the suburb.

"It is important to emphasise that the enemy is taking troops from the interior of the country for its last line of fire in San Salvador," it said.



A Salvadorean guerrilla keeps watch as civilians flee one of the rebel-held neighbourhoods in San Salvador.

Column 8

Polish blonde becomes Miss World

HONG KONG (R) — Anna Krajicka, 24, of Poland was crowned the new Miss World Wednesday in Hong Kong. First runner-up was Leanne Caputo, 23, of Canada and second runner-up was Miss Colombia, 20-year-old Monica Mejia. Krajicka, a five-foot, eight-inch (1.7 metre) blonde, was calm and collected when she was named the new Miss World and remained so as last year's winner, Linda Pettersson of Iceland, handed over the crown.

Joyride in first lady's limo

AGEN, France (R) — A trio of gypsy burglars stole an official limousine of French First Lady Danielle Mitterrand and used it as a getaway car in a string of thefts in the Biarritz region, police has said. The dark-blue Renault 25, which was to collect the French president's wife from Biarritz Airport and take her to their country house, was stolen from a hotel parking lot in the Atlantic coast resort of Vieux-Boucau-les-Bains. By the time it was recovered, the Elysee Palace car had carried the booty from six thefts, including two supermarkets, a clothes boutique, a restaurant, an electric-appliance shop and a town hall. The gypsies got away.

Witches invoke magic to protect landscape

LONDON (R) — Robed witches danced and chanted in the dark on an English country hilltop, trying to charm Prince Charles out of plans to build a village on farmland he owns in the area. Five witches from the 200-strong coven of Earth magic invoked psychic powers Monday night at a makeshift altar in an attempt to influence the heir to the throne to change his mind. The prince, one of Britain's biggest landowners, plans to build a village near the southern town of Dorchester. The witches said they were called by a local woman opposed to the development. High Priest Kevin Carlyon told reporters that while the witches wanted to wait the project away they had no plan to make Prince Charles disappear. "There's no question of us trying to put a spell on the prince," he said. "We quite like the royal family. We are merely seeking to protect the landscape."

UNICEF gets Gandhi prize

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development has been awarded to UNICEF for its efforts in safeguarding the health of the world's children. The award carries a cash prize of 1.5 million rupees (\$35,500) and a citation that praised the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund for its "outstanding contribution in safeguarding and development of the health of the world's children."

The announcement was made by Indian Vice President S.D. Sharma, who is the chairman of the international jury for the prize.

On Nov. 14, the Communist Party daily *Sainteia* published a dispatch by the Soviet News Agency (TASS) describing a crackdown on ethnic Romanian protesters in the Moldavian city of Kishinev several days earlier.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MON	TUE	WED
AMSTERDAM	04 39 04 43	04 40 04 44	04 41 04 45
ATHENS	04 45 04 48	04 46 04 51	04 47 04 54
BARHAM	21 70 28	21 71 28	21 72 28
BRAZIL	22 72 28	22 73 28	22 74 28
Buenos Aires	19 58 28	19 59 28	19 60 28
CARDO	14 57 28	14 58 28	14 59 28
CHICAGO	03 27 03 28	03 28 03 29	03 29 03 30
COPENHAGEN	01 34 01 35	01 35 01 36	01 36 01 37
FRANKFURT	04 37 04 38	04 38 04 39	04 39 04 40
GENEVA	04 39 04 40	04 40 04 41	04 41 04 42
HONG KONG	16 64 22	16 65 22	16 66 22
ISTANBUL	14 54 14 55	14 55 14 56	14 56 14 57
LONDON	12 54 17	12 55 17	12 56 17
MADRID	09 46 13	09 47 13	09 48 13
MEXICO	22 72 28	22 73 28	22 74 28
MONTRAL	03 27 03 28	03 28 03 29	03 29 03 30
NEW DELHI	10 14 02	10 15 02	10 16 02
NEW YORK	03 22 03 23	03 23 03 24	03 24 03 25
PARIS	08 45 15	08 46 15	08 47 15
ROME	07 44 15	07 45 15	07 46 15
SYDNEY	14 57 25	14 58 25	14 59 25
TOKYO	08 46 17	08 47 17	08 48 17
VIENNA	M M M	M M M	M M M

M — Indicates cooling information.

4 killed in S. African unrest

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Four black men were stabbed and hacked to death in unrest in South Africa's troubled Natal province, police said Wednesday.

Police opened fire with shotguns, pistols and teargas in three other incidents around the country to disperse blacks attacking private property or security forces, police said in a report on unrest in the previous 24 hours.

At the Magoda black township in Natal four men were killed in fighting that began when a group of men attacked a house with stones and petrol bombs and abducted two women.

About 2,000 people have died in almost two years of daily clashes between rival black organisations around the Natal province.

vincial capital of Pietermaritzburg and the Indian Ocean port of Durban.

At Edendale, near Pietermaritzburg, one of a number of South African Breweries workers fired a shot at a group of people tried to stop them going to work. There were no injuries.

At least six people have been killed in incidents related to a pay strike at South African Breweries which began nearly six weeks ago.

South African police have suspended restrictions on leading anti-apartheid activist Mohammad Valli so he can attend a conference on the country's future in Paris next week, Valli's lawyer said Tuesday.

Lawyer Krish Naidoo said Val-

Bush approves defence bill

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has approved a defense bill that cuts research spending for the first time on the "Star Wars" space-based missile programme.

Bush signed a \$286 billion defense appropriation bill that cuts funding for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) — commonly known as "Star Wars" — after consecutive increases each year since it was proposed in 1983 by former President Ronald Reagan.

Funding for the programme, which has received a lower priority since Bush took office in January, was cut from \$4.1 million in the last fiscal year to \$3.8 million.

Bush also approved a measure Tuesday that provides \$1.2 billion in compensation to Japanese-Americans who were put in internment camps shortly after the United States entered World War II.

The money would be paid over a three-year period starting with the next fiscal year.

Bush, passing judgment on a series of bills approved at the last minute by Congress before they go on holiday until the end of January, signed into law a measure that bans smoking on most U.S. domestic flights. The smoking ban, which was included in an appropriations bill for the Department of Transportation, goes into effect 95 days after the signing.

Under current law, cigarette smoking is banned on any domestic flight of two hours or less. The prohibition was due to expire April 1.

The only exception to the new law would be flights lasting more than six hours — a length of time that would apply only to a handful of trips between the U.S. mainland and Alaska and the U.S. mainland and Canada.

Bush also signed a bill he had previously vetoed after Congress dropped a controversial provision that would have provided federal government funds for poor women who sought an abortion because of rape or incest.

"Adoption of such a provision would have deprived innocent unborn children of the most basic civil right — the right to life," Bush said in signing a bill providing funding for the Departments of Labour, Health and Human Services and Education.

State radio said the group was seeking asylum in Chinese nationalised Taiwan. This was confirmed by the owner of a Chinese restaurant on the island who said they claimed to be fleeing political persecution on the mainland.

The man, an overseas Chinese whose restaurant is in Taejong, on Cheju's south western tip, said by telephone the group claimed to be wanted by Chinese authorities for involvement in nationwide political protests last spring.

He said the 11 men and one woman, ranging in age from about 20 to 40, included students and workers.

They told him they left a port near Shanghai on Nov. 15 in a hired fishing boat and sailed northeast to Cheju, arriving there early Tuesday.

After hiding all day in a pine wood, the group made for nearby Taejong under cover of darkness, arriving at the restaurant around 10 p.m. to seek help, he said.

China uncovers corruption cases

PEKING (AP) — China has uncovered 100,000 cases of bribery and corruption this year, triple the rate of last year, the nation's top prosecutor said.

The official China Daily Wednesday quoted Lin Fuzhi, head of the supreme prosecutor's office as saying the nation had achieved an initial victory in its campaign to root out corruption.

Liu said the 100,000 cases of graft, bribery, embezzlement and other forms of corruption compared to 35,000 for the same period in 1988.

He said arrest warrants for 405,000 people charged with economic-related crimes were issued through September, up 40 per cent from the first nine months of last year.

Opposition to the official corruption that pervades Chinese society was a main rallying cry during the mass pro-democracy

demonstrations in the spring.

The government, after calling in the military to crush the student-led demonstrations in Peking, launched a nationwide campaign against corrupt officials of the Communist Party and the government.

Meanwhile Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin has said China must strengthen its economy and incorporate democratic principles within the party while guarding against "hostile forces" trying to subvert socialism.

Jiang outlined goals of the struggle between Socialist countries and hostile opponents will continue.

The struggle between international hostile forces and Socialist countries will exist for a long time on the levels of infiltration and counterinfiltration, subversion and countersubversion, and "peaceful evolution" and the effort to counter it," he said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

7 die as typhoon hits Philippines

MANILA (AP) — At least seven people died and hundreds more were left homeless as Typhoon Hunt swept across the main island of Luzon, officials said Wednesday. Hunt weakened into a tropical storm and entered the South China Sea off Pangasinan province after sweeping across the rugged mountains of central Luzon, the Manila Weather Bureau reported at 2 p.m. (0600 GMT). Supervising meteorologist Manette Lomarda said Hunt, which came ashore early Wednesday with peak winds of 160 kilometres an hour, had weakened to 85 kilometres an hour. It was moving west-northwest at 19 kilometres an hour. Hunt had affected wide areas of the country, threatening the southern tip of Luzon over the weekend before swerving north west and hitting the central provinces of Luzon. Reports from disaster relief agencies said at least seven people had died since Sunday.

U.K. seeking 'calm' talks on Hong Kong

LONDON (AP) — The Foreign Office has called for a "calm and constructive" exchange with China on Hong Kong after recent statements from Peking indicated Chinese irritation with British attitudes about the colony. British officials said the first chance to try to repair the situation will be at a meeting in Hong Kong next month of the joint liaison group of British Chinese officials which monitors arrangements for the return of the colony to China in 1997. China has alleged that Britain "convinced" in attempts organised in Hong Kong to undermine the Chinese government's position and has objected to the granting of foreign nationality to Hong Kong residents. The Foreign Office said its statement responded to an editorial in the Chinese People's Daily criticising Britain's decision to "internationalise" the colony after talks about Hong Kong's future at the Commonwealth conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last month.

West German autobahn closed

COLOGNE, West Germany (R) — Police closed a newly opened lane on one of West Germany's busiest motorway bridges after the discovery of 11 World War II bombs. "The bombs posed no danger to traffic, but we could not let them lie there under the autobahn," said Uwe Steinbuecker, spokesman for the Environment Department in Cologne. He said the bombs weighing up to 1,000 kilograms failed to explode when dropped by British or American aircraft. They were laid by German troops to detonate the bridge and slow the allied advance in 1945 — but for the second time failed to go off.

Despite the accent on independence, the government stresses the political and economic importance of the Soviet alliance to Poland and that Mazowiecki is a political realist and no enemy of the Soviet Union.

"He goes to Moscow as Poland's first post-war prime minister from outside the circle of the Communist power elite. But this does not mean that he is an anti-Russian or anti-Soviet politician," the government newspaper *Rzecznosc* said Tuesday.